

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: HUEGLER *et al.*

Art Unit: 2854

Application No.: 10/554,402

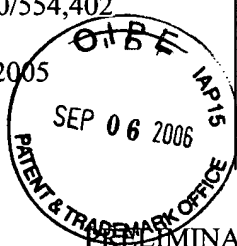
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

United States Patent & Trademark Office  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Sir:

Prior to examination upon the merits, the following preliminary amendment is submitted in connection with the above identified patent application. It is respectfully requested that the present preliminary amendment to the specification and claims be entered and appropriately considered by the United States Patent Office.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.